

Message Text

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50

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

CCO-00 NSCE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 IO-12 RSR-01 DPW-01 /138 W

----- 116553

O R 051200 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3445

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL UDORN

USDEL JEC PARIS

USIA WASHDC

SECDEF

DIRNSA FT GG MEADE MD

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC HAWAII

USDAO SAIGON

COMUSMACTHAI

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDR USSAG NKP

DEPCDR 7/13 AF

CDR 7 TH RRFS RAMASUN THAI

DODSPECREP BANGKOK

DODSPECREP NKP

CHSPECATS BANGKOK

7 ACCS KORAT

56 SOW NKP

REW TRW UDORN

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CDR JCRC NKP
ARMA/ AIRA VTN LAOS
ARMA/ AIRA SVKT LAOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2551

CINCPAC FOR POLAD; 7/13 AF, 432 TRW AND 56 SOW FOR DO/ DI;
MACTHAI FOR J2 AND PAO.

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, PFOR, LA
SUBJECT: LAO SITUATION REPORT - APRIL 5

REF: VIENTIANE 2513

BEGIN SUMMARY: MILITARY - LOW LEVEL OF GROUND ACTION
CONTINUED DURING PERIOD 3-4 APRIL, WITH ONE MAJOR AND
NINE MINOR INCIDENTS REPORTED. FIGHTING TAPERED OFF
NORTHEAST OF KHONG SEDONE, ; ONLY RLAF SORTIES FLOWN WERE
IN SUPPORT OF TROOPS IN CONTACT THERE. POLITICAL -
PRIVATE CONTACTS BETWEEN RLG AND LPF CHIEF NEGOTIATORS
CONTINUE, WITH DISCUSSIONS STILL REPORTEDLY CENTERING
AROUND ORGANIZATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION
AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE DIVISION OF KEY PORTFOLIOS
BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. LPF DRAFT MILITARY PROTOCOL,
OBTAINED BY ARMA, APPEARS NOT TO ADDRESS SEVERAL
ISSUES OF CRUCIAL INTEREST TO USG. END SUMMARY.

1. SECTION I - CEASEFIRE OBSERVANCE

A. MR I: THERE WERE FOUR MINOR INCIDENTS AND NO RLAF
SORTIES REPORTED. ENEMY LIGHTLY SHELLED POSITION NORTH-
EAST OF LUANG PRABANG ON 2 APRIL (NO CASUALTIES). IN
FAR NORTHWEST, ABOUT 45 KM NORTH OF BAN HOUET SAI, ENEMY
SHELLED AND ATTACKED POSITION AFTERNOON 3 APRIL; FRIENDS
WITHDREW WEST WITH ONE WIA AND SEVEN MIA. LATER THAT
EVENING, ENEMY ATTACKED AGAIN AND FRIENDS WITHDREW
FARTHER WEST (NO CASUALTIES). NEXT MORNING, FRIENDS
WERE SHELLED AND WITHDREW TO MEKONG RIVER (NO CASUALTIES).

B. MR II: ONLY GROUND ACTION WAS MINOR ENEMY ATTACK ON
OUTPOST WELL NORTHWEST OF MUONG SOU ON 4 APRIL; FRIENDS
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WITHDREW (ESTIMATED THREE ENEMY CASUALTIES). RLAF FLEW

NO SORTIES.

C. MR III: ONLY GROUND ACTION WAS MINOR ENEMY PROBE OF POSITION SOUTHEAST OF THAKHEK ON 3 APRIL (ONE FRIENDLY WIA, ONE ENEMY WIA). RLAF FLEW NO SORTIES.

D. MR IV: UPDATE TO MAJOR ATTACK APPROX 30 KM NORTH-EAST OF KHONG SEDONE (REPORTED REFTTEL) - SKETCHY FIELD REPORTS INDICATED FIGHTING OF MUCH LOWER INTENSITY CONTINUED THROUGH NIGHT 3 APRIL INTO MORNING 4 APRIL WITH RESULTS STILL UNCERTAIN. IN ADDITION TO FOREGOING ACTION, MAJOR ENEMY- INITIATED INCIDENT OCCURRED EVENING 3 APRIL (1010 Z) WHEN ENEMY FIRED ESTIMATED 160 MORTAR ROUNDS AT POSITION APPROX 23 KM NORTHEAST OF KHONG SEDONE AT XC 063352 (NO CASUALTIES). RLAF FLEW SIX AC-47 GUNSHIP SORTIES DURING NIGHT 3-4 APRIL AND TEN T-28 SORTIES DURING DAY 4 APRIL; ALL WERE IN SUPPORT OF FOREGOING ACTION WITH NO RESULTS OBSERVED.

E. MR V: THERE WERE THREE MINOR GROUND INCIDENTS AND NO RLAF SORTIES REPORTED. TWO PATROL CLASHES OCCURRED APPROX 45 KM NORTH OF PAKSANE ON 3 APRIL AND APPROX 60 KM NORTHWEST OF VIENTIANE ON 4 APRIL (THREE FRIENDLY WIA, ONE ENEMY KIA, FOUR WIA). FRIENDS SIGHTED PL FLAG BEING RAISED ABOUT SEVEN KM NORTHEAST OF SALA PHOU KHOUN JUNCTION ON 4 APRIL, FIRED ARTILLERY AND LAUNCHED PATROL TO INVESTIGATE.

F. COUNT OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS: RLG DEFMIN ANNOUNCED TWO ADDITIONAL CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS, BRING TOTAL TO 344 AS OF MORNING 2 APRIL. (COMMENT: OUR COUNT OF GROUND CONTACTS INITIATED BY BOTH SIDES SHOWS 76 MAJOR AND 463 MINOR INCIDENTS THROUGH 1 APRIL END COMMENT).

2. SECTION II- POLITICAL SITUATION

A. XAT LAO, 5 APRIL, DESCRIBES NEGOTIATIONS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION (PGNU) AS PROCEEDING SLOWLY. DESCRIBING RECENT MEETINGS BETWEEN LPF AND RLG CHIEF NEGOTIATORS PHOUN CONFIDENTIAL

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SIPRASEUTH AND NGON SANNANIKONE, XAT LAO CITES WELL-INFORMED SOURCE TO EFFECT THAT LPF INSISTS THAT VICE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IN NEW PGNU SHOULD BE FROM LPF SIDE. RLG OPPOSES CREATING SUCH A POST. IN ADDITION, LPF DEMANDS PRESIDENCY OF THE JOINT

NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL. PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS
APPEAR TO BE CENTERED AROUND THE APPORTIONMENT OF SUCH
KEY PORTFOLIOS AS DEFENSE, INTERIOR, FINANCE/ ECONOMY
AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. WE HAVE HEARD THAT PRIME MINISTER
SOUVANNA HAS DIRECTED PHENG PHONGSAVAN TO MEET PRIVATELY
WITH PHOUN TODAY IN EFFORT TO RESOLVE REMAINING
DIFFERENCES.

B. ARMA TODAY, 5 APRIL, OBTAINED COPY OF MILITARY
PROVISIONS OF LPF DRAFT PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTING VIENTIANE
AGREEMENT. DOCUMENT IS PRESENTLY BEING TRANSLATED, BUT
PRECIS BRIEFED TO ARMA BY RLG SENIOR MILITARY NEGOTIATOR
INDICATES THAT LPF DRAFT FAILS TO ADDRESS SEVERAL
QUESTIONS OF INTEREST TO USG, INCLUDING ARRANGEMENTS
FOR MIA SEARCH, MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO LAOS, AND
RESUPPLY OF FRIENDLY ENCLAVES IN LPF ZONE.
GODLEY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENTI02551
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730435/aaaahukg.tel
Line Count: 190
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 VIENTIANE 2513
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <21-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971204
Subject: LAO SITUATION REPORT - APRIL 5
TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, PINS, PINT, LA, PINT
To: BANGKOK
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
EA
JAKARTA
MOSCOW
PARIS

PHNOM PENH
SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005